

MINUTES
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
November 9, 2009
7:00 P.M.

Present: Tom Costley, Chairman, Thomas Sheldon, Ronald Turbin, David A. Rempell

Absent: Jane Allen

Others Present: Bill Barkin, Hermon "Skip" Allsop, David Westall, Tim Kaiser, Peter Fohlin, Kathy Poirot

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:** None.
- 2. SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:** October 26, 2009 – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the October 26, 2009 minutes. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 3. PUBLIC HEARING – 7:05:** Tax Classification Hearing – Mr. Costley opened the public hearing at 7:05 pm. Mr. Fohlin explained that although the Board of Assessors set the tax rate each year, the Selectmen can vote to have a single or a split tax rate. He said a split tax rate would increase commercial property taxes and the Town has never had a split tax rate as far back as anyone could remember. The tax rate for fiscal year 2010 is \$12.30. The Town's property valuation was approved by the Department of Revenue today and the tax rate is expected to be approved on Tuesday. Mr. Fohlin said that tax bills could go out as early as Friday. Mr. Costley closed the public hearing. Mr. Rempell thanked the Board of Assessors for all of their hard work and moved to adopt a single tax rate. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 4. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN'S CONSIDERATION:**
 - A.** FY2011 Revenue Forecast – Mr. Fohlin presented a 2010 Revenue Forecast updated from the last Selectmen meeting on October 26 stating that the growth number and free cash amount have been certified by the state.
 - B.** Special Primary Warrant – Mr. Turbin moved the Board sign the Special Primary Warrant as presented setting the Democratic Primary election date for U.S. Senator on Tuesday, December 8 from 7am to 8pm at the Williamstown Elementary School. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
 - C.** General Obligation Bond - \$1,632,000 – Mr. Rempell moved to approve borrowing for \$892,000 for the new drinking water well on Stetson Road and refinancing \$740,000 for the Department of Public Works at a lower bonding rate that will save about \$69,000 over eight years. The well will be paid through water bills. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
 - D.** Water Street Design – Ch. 90 Funding Request – Mr. Fohlin said the Town is hoping to gain stimulus funding since the Pubic Works for Economic Development or (PWED) has disappeared and is not identifiable any longer. Sources include funding through the TIP program from state funds, stimulus funding, or federal level funds. He added that Water Street is the first priority of a list of three with North Hoosac Road reconstruction second and Rt. 43 paving third. Mr. Turbin moved Selectmen sign off on the Chapter 90 spending in the amount of \$133,600 for engineering plans and bid specifications for the reconstruction of Water Street. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- E.** 2010 License Renewals #1 – Mr. Turbin moved to approve the 2010 license renewals as presented. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously. (see attached list)
 - F.** Selectmen Meeting Schedule for December – Mr. Rempell moved Selectmen hold one meeting for the month of December, on December 14. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
 - G.** Alteration of Alcohol Serving Hours on Christmas Eve – Mr. Sheldon moved Selectmen authorize liquor license holders to close early on Christmas Eve. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
 - H.** Population Estimates for Seasonal Liquor Licenses 2010 – The Board took no action.
 - I.** Confirmation of Appointment to Conservation Commission – Mr. Sheldon moved to confirm the appointment of Brian Turton to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 5. PETITIONER’S REQUEST:** None.
- 6. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT:** See attached
- 7. OTHER BUSINESS:** Mr. Turbin reminded the Board that the Annual MMA Meeting will be held in Boston January 22-23. If anyone is interested in attending, please let him know.
- 8. ADJOURN:** Mr. Rempell moved to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next Selectmen Meeting is Monday, November 23, 2009 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E. Sheldon
Secretary